IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for speech recognition comprising:

speech input means for inputting speech;

spot information memory means for storing information relative to spots, the information being organized in a level structure;

storage means for storing object words indicative of spots within said spot information memory means;

computing means for acquiring similarities between the speech inputted from said speech input means and the object words stored in said storage means; and

recognition means for recognizing the speech corresponding to one of the object words from the similarities acquired by said computing means,

wherein when a plurality of object words that are the same or similar to each other are recognized by said recognition means, a limiting word for distinguishing between said plurality of object words is automatically sampled from said spot information memory means at the highest level of said level structure that is capable of uniquely determining an object word from said plurality of object words and stored as an object word corresponding to said limiting word in said storage means, and

wherein the object word corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as speech.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for speech recognition comprising:

speech input means for inputting speech;

spot information memory means for storing information relative to spots, the information being organized in a level structure;

storage means for storing object words indicative of spots within said spot information memory means;

output means for producing a request message urging a user to input said object words;

computing means for acquiring similarities between the speech inputted from said speech input means and the object words stored in said storage means; and

recognition means for recognizing the speech corresponding to one of the object words from the similarities acquired by said computing means,

wherein when a plurality of object words that are the same or similar to each other are recognized by said recognition means, a limiting word for distinguishing between said plurality of object words is automatically sampled from said spot information memory means at the highest level of said level structure that is capable of uniquely determining an object word from said plurality of object words and stored as an object word corresponding to said limiting word in said storage means,

wherein the limiting word is produced as the request message by said output means, and

wherein the object word corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as speech.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) An apparatus for speech recognition according to claim 2, wherein said spot information memory means stores, as information relative to spots, a plurality of facility names and detailed classifying information and rough classifying information to which each facility name belongs which are correlated with each other.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for speech recognition according to claim 2,

wherein when the plurality of object words are recognized by said recognition means, a limiting word for distinguishing said plurality of object words is sampled from said spot information memory means and stored as the object word in said storage means, and

wherein when said plurality of object words are distinguished from one another in terms of rough classifying information, only one at a higher level of the object words corresponding to the limiting word is produced as a request voice by said output means and the object word corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as [[a]] speech.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) An apparatus for speech recognition according to claim 1, wherein said recognition means recognizes an object word with similarity within a prescribed range, acquired by said computing means, as the recognized object word.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) An apparatus for speech recognition according to claim 2, wherein said recognition means recognizes an object word with similarity within a prescribed range, acquired by said computing means, as the recognized object word.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A method of speech recognition comprising the steps of:

inputting speech from an external source via a speech input section;

storing information relative to spots in a spot information memory, the information being organized in a level structure;

storing object words indicative of spots within said spot information memory;

acquiring similarities between the speech input from the external source and the stored object words;

recognizing the speech corresponding to one of the object words from the acquired similarities;

when a plurality of object words that are the same or similar to each other are recognized, automatically sampling from said spot information memory at the highest level of said level structure that is capable of uniquely determining an object word from said plurality of object words a limiting word for distinguishing between said plurality of object words;

storing said limiting word as an object word corresponding to said limited word; and

recognizing the object word corresponding to said limiting word as speech.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A method of speech recognition comprising the steps of:

inputting speech from an external source via a speech input section;

storing information relative to spots in a spot information memory, the information being organized in a level structure;

storing object words indicative of spots within said spot information memory;

producing a request message urging a user to input said object words;

acquiring similarities between the speech input from the external source and the stored object words;

recognizing the speech corresponding to one of the object words from the acquired similarities;

when a plurality of object words that are the same or similar to each other are recognized, automatically sampling from said spot information memory at the highest level of said level structure that is capable of uniquely determining an object word from said plurality of object words a limiting word for distinguishing between said plurality of object words; and

storing said limiting word as an object word corresponding to said limited word;

producing the limiting word as the request message; and

recognizing the object word corresponding to said limiting word as speech.

Claim 9 (New) An apparatus for speech recognition comprising:

speech inputter for inputting speech;

spot information memory for storing information relative to spots, the information being organized in a level structure;

storage memory for storing object words indicative of spots within said spot information memory;

computer for acquiring similarities between the speech inputted from said speech inputter and the object words stored in said storage memory; and

recognizer for recognizing the speech corresponding to one of the object words from the similarities acquired by said computer,

wherein when a plurality of object words that are the same or similar to each other are recognized by said recognizer, a limiting word for distinguishing between said plurality of object words is automatically sampled from said spot information memory at the highest level of said level structure that is capable of uniquely determining an object word from said plurality of object words and stored as an object word corresponding to said limiting word in said storage memory, and

wherein the object word corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as speech.

Claim 10 (New) An apparatus for speech recognition comprising:

speech inputter for inputting speech;

spot information memory for storing information relative to spots, the information being organized in a level structure;

storage memory for storing object words indicative of spots within said spot information memory;

outputter for producing a request message urging a user to input said object words;

computer for acquiring similarities between the speech inputted from said speech inputter and the object words stored in said storage memory; and

recognizer for recognizing the speech corresponding to one of the object words from the similarities acquired by said computer,

wherein when a plurality of object words that are the same or similar to each other are recognized by said recognizer, a limiting word for distinguishing between said plurality of object words is automatically sampled from said spot information memory at the highest level of said

level structure that is capable of uniquely determining an object word from said plurality of

object words and stored as an object word corresponding to said limiting word in said storage

memory,

wherein the limiting word is produced as the request message by said outputter, and

wherein the object word corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as speech.

Claim 11 (New) An apparatus for speech recognition according to claim 10, wherein

said spot information memory stores, as information relative to spots, a plurality of facility

names and detailed classifying information and rough classifying information to which each

facility name belongs which are correlated with each other.

Claim 12 (New) An apparatus for speech recognition according to claim 10,

wherein when the plurality of object words are recognized by said recognizer, a limiting

word for distinguishing said plurality of object words is sampled from said spot information

memory and stored as the object word in said storage memory, and

wherein when said plurality of object words are distinguished from one another in terms

of rough classifying information, only one at a higher level of the object words corresponding to

the limiting word is produced as a request voice by said outputter and the object word

corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as speech.

Claim 13 (New) An apparatus for speech recognition according to claim 9, wherein said recognizer recognizes an object word with similarity within a prescribed range, acquired by said computer, as the recognized object word.

Claim 14 (New) An apparatus for speech recognition according to claim 10, wherein said recognizer recognizes an object word with similarity within a prescribed range, acquired by said computer, as the recognized object word.